Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) Peptides of the AT_1 receptor, comprising 5 to 30 amino acids as well as their variants, which can form an epitope and bind auto-antibodies occurring in preeclampsia and malign hypertension.

2. (Withdrawn) Peptides according to Claim 1, wherein they comprise SEQ ID NO: 1 (AFHYESQ) or contain this sequence in an identical or slightly modified form.

3. (Withdrawn) Peptides according to Claim 1, wherein they comprise at least one of the amino acid sequences AVHYQSN (SEQ ID NO: 2), SHFYQTR (SEQ ID NO: 3), GYYFDTN (SEQ ID NO: 4) or ENTNIT (SEQ ID NO: 5) or contain at least one of these sequences in an identical or slightly modified form.

4. (Withdrawn) Antibodies aimed against the epitope of the AT_1 receptor, wherein they recognise the peptides according to claim 1.

5. (Withdrawn) Antibodies according to Claim 4, wherein they recognise the peptides of SEQ ID NO: 1 (AFHYESQ) or peptides with the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 2), SHFYQTR (SEQ ID NO: 3), GYYFDTN (SEQ ID NO: 4) or ENTNIT (SEQ ID NO: 5).

6. – 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn) Method for binding and elimination of the pathological, functionally active autoantibodies according to claim 4 in body fluids, in particular blood, by use of inspecific adsorber molecules chosen from the group consisting of protein A, protein G, antihuman immunoglobulin as well as overall immunoglobulin binding ligands chosen from the group consisting of L-tryptophane and peptides.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for the immunisation of mammals for the purpose of obtaining polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies, comprising using peptides at least containing at least one of the amino acid sequences according to claim 1.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for immunisation of mammals for the purpose of obtaining antiidiotypical antibodies, comprising using antibodies aimed against the amino acid sequences according to claim 1.

15. (Withdrawn) Antigenic agent for detection of preeclampsia and malign hypertension, wherein it contains at least one peptide according to claim 1.

16. (Withdrawn) Immunogenic agent, wherein it contains at least one peptide according to claim 1, which induces the production of antibodies capable of recognising auto-antigens in preeclampsia or malign hypertension.

17. (Withdrawn) Test kit to determine anti- AT_1 receptor antibodies for proof of preeclampsia or malign hypertension, containing at least one peptide according to claim 1.

18. (Withdrawn) Method for detecting anti- AT_1 receptor antibodies in biological fluids, wherein the sample to be examined is brought into contact with at least one peptide of claim 1 or with a combination of these peptides with a carrier

material under conditions permitting an antigen-antibody reaction and rendering proof by means of physical or chemical methods.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for production of therapeutic agents against preeclampsia or malign hypertension comprising using the peptides according to claim 1.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for binding auto-antibodies comprising:

providing isolated peptides of an AT_1 receptor consisting essentially of at least one of amino acid sequences SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 4 ~~comprising 5 to 30 amino acids of loop II of the receptor or functional analogs thereof~~, wherein said peptides bind auto-antibodies occurring in patients with preeclampsia ~~and malign hypertension~~,
contacting said peptides *in vitro* with a ~~body fluid~~ blood sample from a patient suspected of having preeclampsia ~~or malign hypertension~~ under conditions permitting binding of said auto-antibodies with said peptide, and
binding said auto-antibodies in said ~~body fluid~~ blood sample via said peptides, ~~wherein said binding neutralizes the auto-antibodies and/or~~ wherein preeclampsia ~~or malign hypertension~~ is diagnosed via said binding.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said peptides are soluble or bound to a solid phase and wherein the method comprises a direct or indirect detection of said auto-antibodies in the ~~body fluid~~ blood sample.

21. and 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the peptides are bound to a solid phase and wherein the method further comprises neutralizing said auto-antibodies via said peptides.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said ~~body fluid~~ blood sample is maternal blood.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said solid phase is part of a column.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of binding auto-antibodies against the angiotensin AT_1 receptor in a ~~body fluid~~ blood sample *in vitro* comprising contacting an isolated peptide of the AT_1 receptor with a body fluid under conditions permitting binding of said auto-antibodies with said peptide, wherein the peptide consists essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO:3, or SEQ ID NO:4 ~~or SEQ ID NO:5~~.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the peptide consists essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein said ~~body fluid~~ blood sample is maternal blood.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 28~~ A method of binding auto-antibodies against the angiotensin AT_1 receptor in maternal blood *in vitro* comprising contacting an isolated peptide of the AT_1 receptor with the maternal blood under conditions permitting binding of said auto-antibodies with said peptide, wherein the peptide consists essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~wherein said body fluid is maternal blood~~.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising detecting said auto-antibodies in said ~~body fluid~~ blood sample.

32. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the blood sample is plasma or serum sample.

33. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the blood sample is plasma or serum sample.